(d) whether the Indo-US Joint Business Council, made any recommendation in this regard which could be acceptable to Government of India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) In respect of patents in the areas of food, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, India and US have differences on issues such as scope of patentability, duration of patents, pipeline protection for products covered by existing patents in the U.S., and compulsory licensing. These issues are being negotiated in the Uruguay Round as a part of the Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs).

The Indo-US Joint Business Council has not made any specific recommendations on these issues, but has suggested that concerted efforts should be made to resolve them taking into account the concerns and aspirations of both sides.

Direction of Trade to Guide Exporters

3848. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any direction of trade envisaged by Government to guide the prospective exporters;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any programme for conducting International Marketing Survey by professionals in the target markets;

(d) if so, whether Government have approached professional staff for carrying out such programmes;

(e) whether Government are aware that the Trade Directories containing names and addresses of foreign importers are not accurate since they contain names of non-existing firms; and

(f) if so, what steps Government have taken to print out Trade Directories with duly verified addresses by the professional staff of the Embassies ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) A weekly publication entitled 'Indian Trade Journal' (ITJ) is publised by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta to guide the prospective exporters.

(b) The ITJ contains the trade prospects of different commodities in individual countries, alongwith the market size for the commodity in each country, India's share of that market and other related information based on monthly reports from Indian Embassies.

(c) and (d) Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, India Trade Promotion Organisation and other such agencies conduct market surveys as and when the necessity is felt.

(e) and (f) DGCI&S, Calcutta publishes a Directory of Indian Exporters which is updated periodically. Due care is taken to verify the accuracy of these particulars. The names and addresses of foreign importers are not published but a list is maintained by DGCI&S and information is provided by them on request. These particulars are also updated periodically.

Export of Sea Food Items

3849. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV "RAVI" :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the net share of export of sea-food in the country's exports during the year 1992-93 stating the target set for the year 1993-94; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to further increase the export of sea-food items in 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE